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Europäisches
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Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

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EINGEGANGEN

05. Aug. 2004

Patentanwälte
KRAUS & WEISERT

Datum/Date

05. 8. 04

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 13575EP /nh	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°./Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 03024429.7
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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire TAKATA CORPORATION

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- the European search report
- the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

Abstract

Title

Figure

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure: 1

Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

1X

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 775 729 A (MACOCHA MICHAEL A ET AL) 7 July 1998 (1998-07-07)	1	B60R21/16 B60R21/26
Y	* column 3, line 43 - line 61 * * column 4, line 17 - line 25; figure 1 * * abstract *	2-14	
Y	----- DE 195 41 513 A (VOLKSWAGENWERK AG) 30 May 1996 (1996-05-30)	2	
A	* column 3, line 15 - line 25; figure 2 * * abstract *	1	
A	----- DE 199 30 157 A (TAKATA EUROP GMBH) 4 January 2001 (2001-01-04) * column 3, line 52 - column 4, line 23; figures 1-3 * * abstract *	1,2	
A	----- DE 198 50 448 A (TAKATA EUROP GMBH) 4 May 2000 (2000-05-04) * column 2, line 50 - column 3, line 62; figures 1-4 * * abstract *	1,2	
Y	----- US 4 262 931 A (STRASSER ROBERT A ET AL) 21 April 1981 (1981-04-21) * column 3, line 26 - line 49; figures 1,2 * * abstract *	3	
P, Y	----- EP 1 340 656 A (TAKATA CORP) 3 September 2003 (2003-09-03) * paragraphs '0017! - '0021!; figures 1-4 * * abstract *	4-14	
A	----- US 5 273 309 A (LA GRANGE LARRY G ET AL) 28 December 1993 (1993-12-28) * abstract; figures 1-5 *	4-14	
	----- -/-		
3	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (PO4/01)	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Berlin	26 July 2004	Wauters, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 6 260 878 B1 (TANASE TOSHINORI) 17 July 2001 (2001-07-17) * abstract; figures 1-15 *	4-14	
A	US 5 803 485 A (ACKER DOMINIQUE ET AL) 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) * abstract; figures 1-16 *	4-14	
A	DE 299 21 743 U (TRW REPA GMBH) 13 April 2000 (2000-04-13) * abstract; figures 1,2 *	4-14	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
3	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Berlin	26 July 2004	Wauters, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



European Patent
Office

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 03 02 4429

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-2

Multichamber airbag whereby the chambers are formed by a seam (partitioning joint line)

2. claim: 3

Valve between chambers of a multichamber airbag

3. claims: 4-14

Airbag gas distributor

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 03 02 4429

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-07-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

03024429.7

In order to provide an airbag apparatus for side collision in which a gas pressure in a lower chamber (1a) can be maintained at a high level for a sufficiently long time, an airbag (1) is formed by making a sheet material such as cloth or resin sheet into a bag shape, and the interior thereof is divided by a seam (2) into the lower chamber (1a) on the lower side and an upper chamber (1b) on the upper side.